



\$2.95 #11

Nodwick™



Nodwick



in:

"It's a Wonderful Afterlife"

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

ER, HE JUST SORT OF GOT IN THE WAY. IT'S THAT PESKY HEROIC STREAK OF HIS AGAIN.

WE'RE VERY LUCKY HE LOOKS OUT FOR US LIKE THIS... (SNICKER)

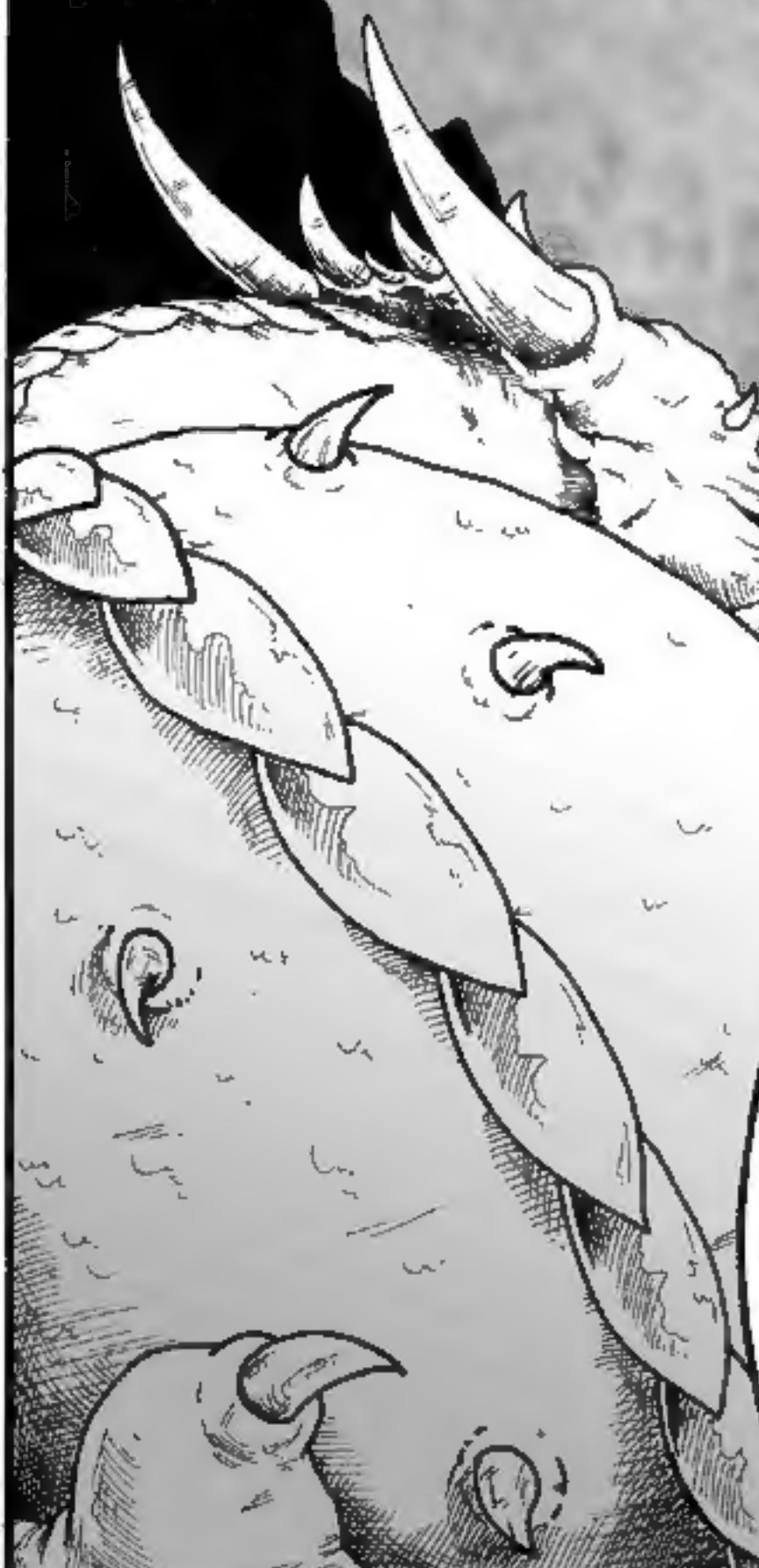
OH, YES. IT WASN'T THAT ANYONE PUSHED ME INTO ITS MOUTH; I DID IT AS A NOBLE SACRIFICE TO SAVE EVERYONE FROM BECOMING ADVENTURER FLAMÉ.

SO WHY DID THE ICKY-NASTY FLAME-BELCH WORM DIE?

I THINK IT CHOKED ON THE CHESTS NODWICK WAS CARRYING.

ALL THE EXTRA ONES YOU STUFFED IN AFTER ME DIDN'T HURT, EITHER.

TAP!
TAP!



SOMEONE HELP
ME PULL HIM OUT.
TRY NOT TO GET HIM
SNAGGED ON ANY-
THING POINTY.

OH, WELL. I WAS READY FOR A
LITTLE BREAK, ANYWAY. THERE'S NOTHING
LIKE A BIT OF "FINAL REST" TO MAKE
UP FOR LOST SLEEP.



GREETINGS,
NODWICK!

OH, HI,
THERE.

FEAR NOT, FOR I
AM AN ANGEL, SENT
TO GUIDE YOU INTO--

FORGET IT.
YOU CAME FOR
NOTHING.

I BEG
YOUR PARDON?

SEE THE
RED-HEADED CLERK
OVER THERE? SHE'S DUCT-TAPING
ME BACK TO LIFE. I'M JUST GOING TO
CATCH FORTY WINKS OUT HERE IN
LIMBO WHILE SHE RE-ATTACHES MY...
UM, IT LOOKS LIKE MY LIPS, AT THE
MOMENT...







IT'S ALL THERE...

EVERY
ATOM...

EVERY
BEING...

I SEE
THEM
ALL...

NICE ONE.
Y'KNOW, I'D ENJOY
THIS A LOT MORE
IF I HAD A BIG
VINDICTIVE
STREAK.

I DON'T
GET IT...



I EVEN
SEE THE TWO
PEOPLE WHO
ARE WATCHING
ME.

HELLO, CLARENCE.
NODWICK, YOU'RE LOOK-
ING GOOD, CONSIDERING
EVENTS THE LAST TIME
YOU WERE ALIVE.

I HAVE A...
PROBLEM, NODWICK.
I DO HOPE YOU CAN **CHANGE**
THINGS AND KEEP THIS FROM
HAPPENING... BUT BEING ABLE
TO KNOW **EVERYTHING** IS
SO... **INTRODUCING.**

SHOW'S OVER!
LET'S FIND YOUR FRIEND,
PIFFANY. I KNOW SHE'LL DO
FINE WITHOUT YOU!







YOU KNOW, THIS IS FUN AND ALL, BUT--

HANG ON A SECOND...

IF WE CAN'T CHANGE YOUR DESTINY OR PIFFANK'S...

MAYBE WE CAN DO A NUMBER ON SOMEONE ELSE!

KA-PIFFANK!

THERE! THAT WARRIOR-LORDMOMX OF YOURS NEVER BECAME THAT PAIN-IN-THE-TUSH YOU KNOW SO WELL. HE MANAGES HIS OWN BREWERY WHERE HE OCCASIONALLY TURNS A PROFIT. THAT USUALLY HAPPENS WHEN HE PASSES OUT OR LOSES THE KEY TO HIS STORAGE WAREHOUSE.

THAT WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE HIM SKIP TO WORK EVERY MORNING.

SO WHO TOOK HIS PL--
EGAD.

NO, NO, GURTHARGO! MUNTIE PIFFANK NEEDS THAT TO PUT NODWICK BACK TOGETHER! MAYBE HE'LL LET YOU CHEW ON HIM LATER...

DING!

NODWICK
3,726
DEATH
-O-
METER







WELL, I JUST WANTED TO EXPLAIN THAT THIS WHOLE FIASCO ISN'T CLARENCE'S FAULT, ENTIRELY. THERE'S NOTHING HE COULD DO, EVEN IF I WANTED TO GO INTO THE GREAT BEYOND. I'M BOUND BY MY HENCHMAN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT TO "REMAIN ON THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE EVEN IF PULMONARY AND CARDIOVASCULAR FUNCTIONS CEASE, SO LONG AS HOPE OF REHABILITATION EXISTS OR ONE YEAR AFTER DATE OF DEATH, WHICHEVER IS LONGER."

SO IT'S PRETTY MUCH A MOOT POINT.



WE SEE...

VERY WELL. WE'LL OVERLOOK THIS ON HIS RECORD. STILL SEE IF YOU CAN'T COME UP WITH SOME FAVOR HE CAN DO FOR YOU. IF HE DOESN'T DO SOMETHING POSITIVE, HE'LL MOPE ABOUT IT FOR CENTURIES.

I'LL TALK IT OVER WITH HIM. I ADMIRE YOUR WORK, ESPECIALLY THE SUNSETS.

THANKS. IT TOOK FOREVER TO GET THE PURPLES JUST RIGHT. GOODBYE.



SO, WHAT NOW?

WELL, IT'S ALMOST YULETIDE, AND I STILL HAVE ONE GIFT TO FIND...



SOON...

THERE! ALL BETTER!

THE FLAMEBELCH WYRM'S TREASURE HOARD WILL FILL OUR YULETIDE SHOPPING LIST IN SPADES! I THINK I EVEN FOUND A GIFT THAT WILL CONVINCE THE "FANG AND FLAGON" TO RE-OPEN MY TAB!

AND I CAN BUY PLENTY OF MAGIC COMPONENTS FOR THE WIZARD GUILD GIFT EXCHANGE. I'LL WHIP UP SOME SPELL SCROLLS THAT'LL KNOCK THEIR SOCKS OFF!



JUST SO LONG AS ENOUGH GOLD IS LEFT FOR THE ORPHAN'S YULETIDE JUBILEE. I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE TO PRY UP THE FLOOR-BOARDS TO FIND WHERE YOU'VE HIDDEN OUR TREASURE, AGAIN, AM I?

NO, MA'AM.

GOOD! WELL, LET'S HEAD FOR HOME. I THINK WE STILL HAVE SOME YUMMY APPLE CIDER WE CAN HEAT UP TONIGHT!

DO YOU THINK SHE'D LOOK ON THE ROOF?

DAYS LATER, YULETIDE EVE HAS COME, AND CELEBRATIONS ARE IN FULL SWING...

I'M OFF TO THE JUBILEE! I THINK ARTAX AND YEAGAR ARE ON THE ROOF, DOING SOME LAST-MINUTE DECORATION.

I'M HEADED TO THE HENCHMAN'S UNION HALL FOR A PARTY, MYSELF. BUT WE CAN'T DEPART JUST YET...

MERRY YULE, PIFFANK. THANKS FOR KEEPING ME GOING ALL THIS TIME.

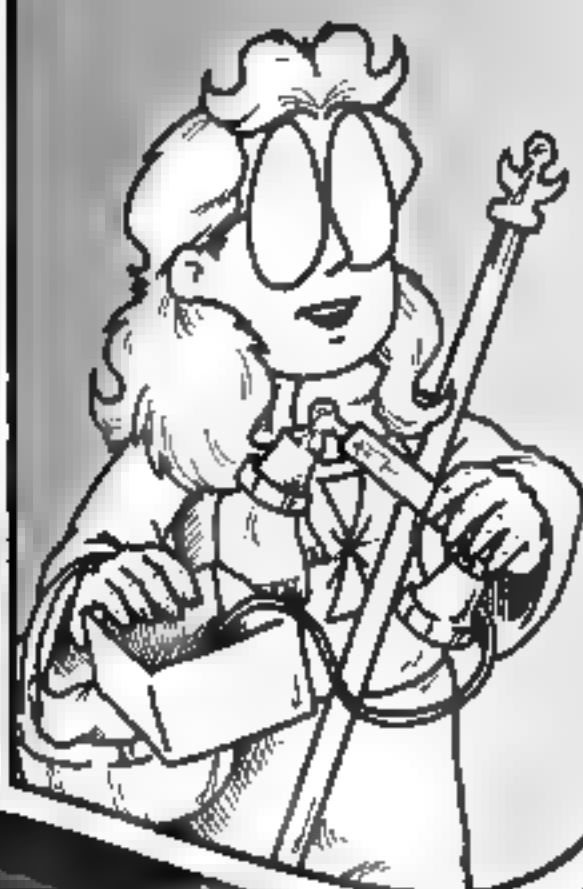
OH, BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO!

BE SURE TO OPEN IT BEFORE YOU LEAVE. SEE YOU LATER!

WE WANTED TO LET
YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE
DOING A WONDERFUL JOB
DOWN THERE. KEEP UP THE
GOOD WORK. WE'RE VERY
PROUD OF YOU.

BY THE
WAY, YOUR
RIDE TO THE
JUBILEE IS
HERE.

READY TO
GO, MISS
PIFFANY?



Academy

The End

Nodwick

in:
Hollow Victory

THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING OUR CALL FOR HELP.

NOT AT ALL! WE'RE ALWAYS READY TO ANSWER THE CALL WHEN FAITH AND GOODNESS NEED US!

AND THOUGH WE RARELY TAKE GUESTS POSTED IN CHURCH BULLETINS...

I HATE IT WHEN IT'S PIFFANY'S TURN TO PICK OUR NEXT JOB!

OUR RELIGIOUS ORDER BESEECHES YOU: FIND THE STAR OF ELYSIVANA! ONLY THE STAR'S HOLY POWER CAN RESTORE BALANCE TO OUR TEMPLE!

WITHOUT IT, ALL WE HOLD SACRED WILL FALL INTO RUIN!

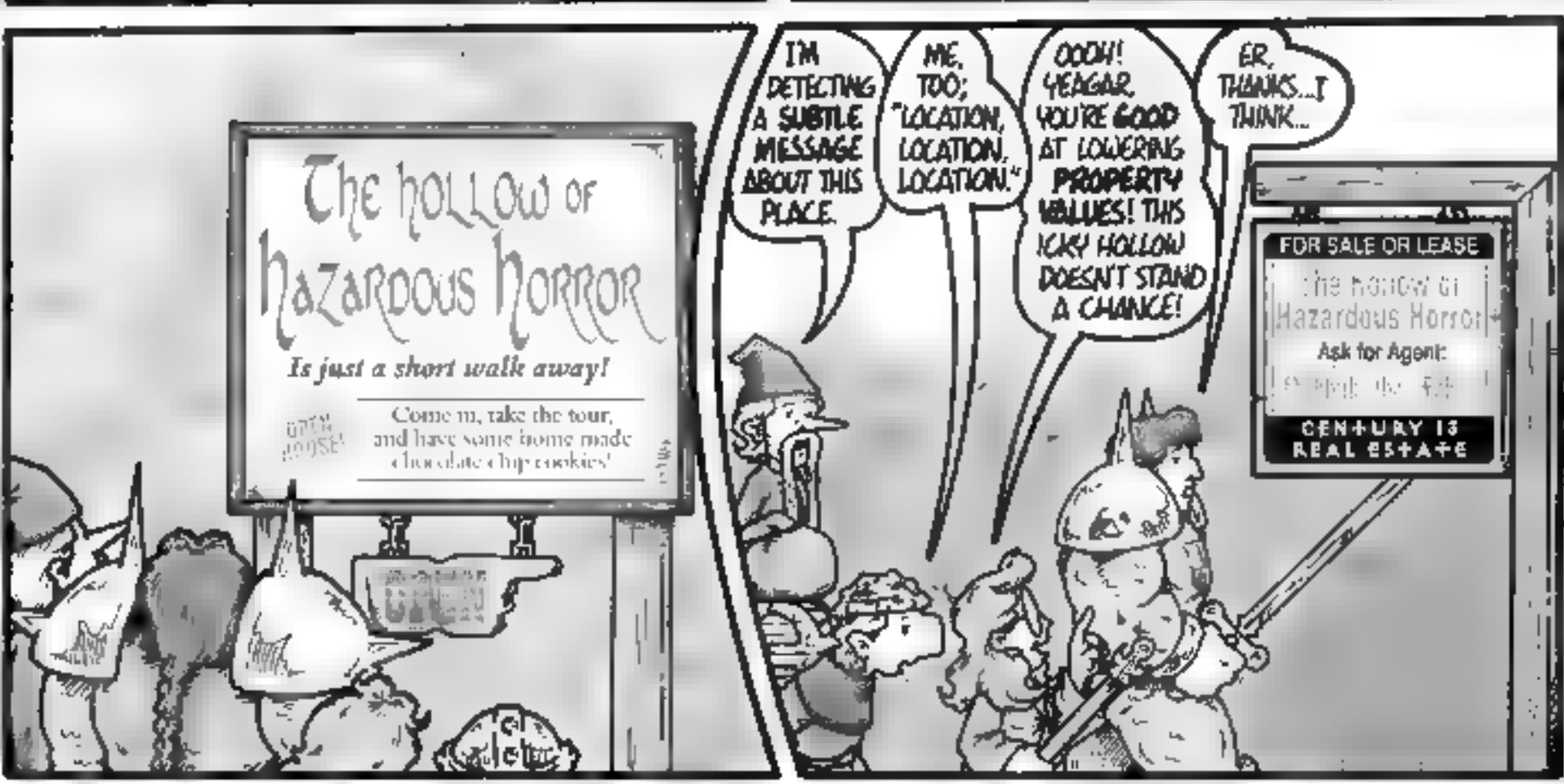
THE RELIC IS HELD IN A PLACE KNOWN AS THE HOLLOW OF HAZARDOUS HORROR!

SOUNDS PEACHY, SO, WHAT DOES THIS STAR-THING LOOK LIKE? WHAT DOES IT DO?

IT IS A RUBY THE SIZE OF TWO FISTS! AS FOR WHAT IT DOES, ITS POWERS ARE MANY AND WONDEROUS! OH, YES... IT'S VERY, UM, POWERFUL... INDEED...

THEY LOST THE MANUAL.

ALL BUT THE TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE. WHEN YOU FIND THE RUBY, I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND JOSTLING IT TOO MUCH...





STAND ASIDE, FOUL FIEND! WE'RE HERE TO RETRIEVE THE STAR OF ELYSIANA, SO--

HOWDY, FOLKS! WELCOME TO THE HOLLOW OF HAZARDOUS HORROR! I KNOW Y'ALL WILL JUST LOVE THIS HAVEN OF NIGHTMARE! PLUS, WITH CENTURY 13 REALTY, GETTING FINANCED IS JUST A SOUL AWAY!

FOR SALE OR LEASE

Ask the Agent

CENTURY 13 REAL ESTATE



THE NAME'S DYBBUK, BY THE WAY. HERE, HAVE A COOKIE! MY MOM MADE 'EM, AND SHE'S A SERAPHIM, SO YOU KNOW THEY'RE SIN-FREE!

NOW, TAKE ONE OF THESE HERE BROCHURES. IT'LL GIVE YOU AN IDEA WHY THIS OPPORTUNITY IS GOLDEN!



I'VE ALSO GOT THESE HERE DELUXE BROCHURES THAT GIVE YOU THE LOW-DOWN ON WHY THIS PLACE IS SUCH A FOOLPROOF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT! ONLY FIVE GOLD, Y'ALL! ANY TAKERS?

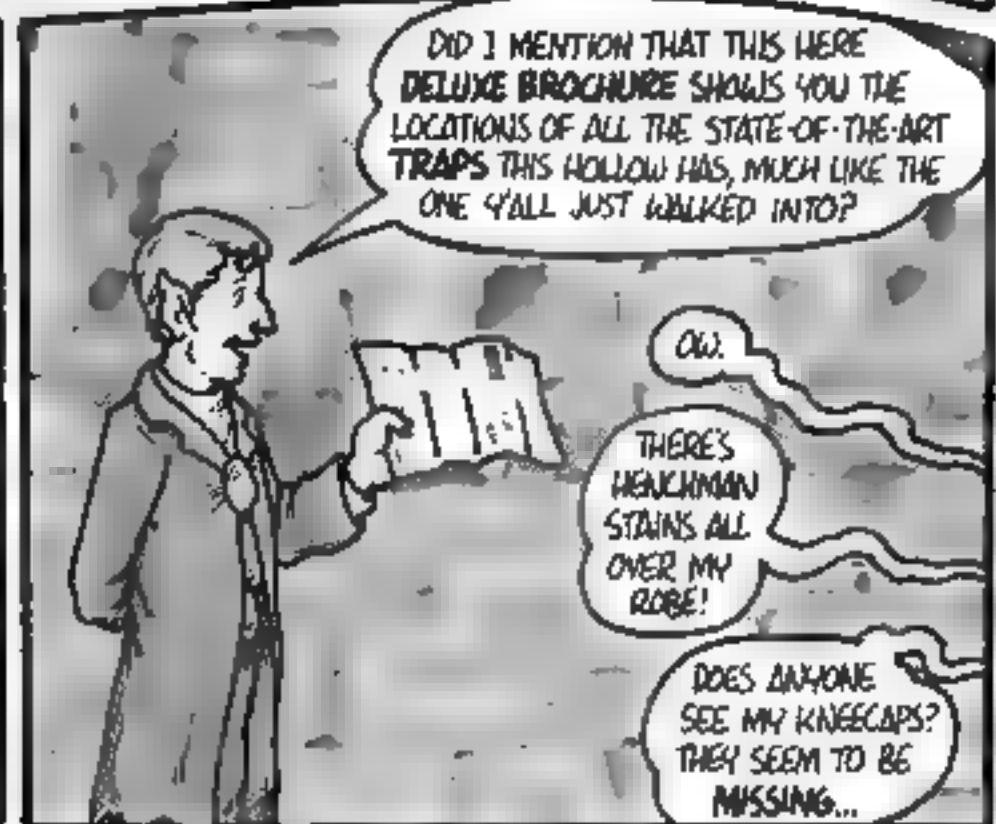
WE'LL PASS, THANKS, ANYWAY.



SPLAT!

AAAAIEEE!!

RENN
CRUNCH!
GRRRIINNND!
TEAR!
EL-SQUISHOI!



DID I MENTION THAT THIS HERE DELUXE BROCHURE SHOWS YOU THE LOCATIONS OF ALL THE STATE-OF-THE-ART TRAPS THIS HOLLOW HAS, MUCH LIKE THE ONE Y'ALL JUST WALKED INTO?

OW.

THERE'S HENKMAN STAINK ALL OVER MY ROBE!

DOES ANYONE SEE MY KNEECAPS? THEY SEEM TO BE MISSING...

LATER, DEEP WITHIN THE HOLLOW...



YOU LET NODWICK
SCOUT AHEAD BY
HIMSELF?!

WELL, WE MAY
HAVE GIVEN HIM
THE IMPRESSION THAT
WE'D BE FOLLOWING
HIM, BUT...

I HAVEN'T HEARD
ANY SHRIEKS OF PAIN,
SO HE'S PROBABLY FINE.
LET'S GO FIND HIM.



DO NOT FEAR. I AM TRUNG
THE OGRE, AND THIS IS MY COUSIN, OGNAR.
WE WILL NOT HARM YOU.

WE RAN INTO YOUR
LARGE-NOSED SCOUT, AND,
FEARING HE WAS PART OF A
CENTURY 13 EVICTION FORCE,
OGNAR ATE HIM.

LATER, YOUR SCOUT TOLD
US HE WASN'T A PARTY TO
THE SALE OF THIS DUNGEON
COMPLEX, AND HE MENTIONED
YOU MIGHT BE WILLING TO
HELP US SAVE THE HOLLOW
OF HAZARDOUS HORROR,
WHICH IS OUR HOME.

LATER...



WOULD
YOU LIKE IT
IF SOMEONE
MADE YOU
GO OUT
ALONE?

NO,
MAYAM.

OR USED
YOU AS A
DECOR?

NO,
MAYAM.

OR AS A
SHOVEL?

NO,
MAYAM.

ER, GUYS?
WHY DOES THIS
WALL HAVE HAIR
GROWING OUT
OF IT?



NODWICK
TOLD YOU THAT
AFTER YOU
ATE HIM?

YES. FORTUNATELY,
OGNAR ISN'T MUCH
FOR CHEWING.

TRUE, BUT
HIS DIGESTIVE
JUICES ARE
IMPRESSIVE...





OUR HERDES RETURN WITH THE GEM...

THE STAR OF
ELYSILVANA! YOU'VE
FOUND IT!!

YEAH, YEAH. WANNA
BUY A DUNGEON? CHEAP?

YEAGAR...

DEED

THANK YOU, LORD
HIEROPHANT! HERE'S
YOUR RECEIPT!

HEY! I THOUGHT YOU NEEDED
THAT ROCK TO "RESTORE THE
BALANCE," OR SOMETHING!

ER, YES... THE
BALANCE TO OUR BOOKS.
WE GOT A LITTLE CARRIED
AWAY WITH A RENOVATION
LOAN, AND 13TH CENTURY
REALTY WAS ABOUT TO
FORECLOSE...

I THINK
I'M GOING TO
BE SICK...

I UNDERSTAND
Y'ALL HAVE A DUNGEON
FOR SALE? I KNOW A
CRACKERJACK AGENT
Y'ALL CAN LIST IT
WITH! INTERESTED?

I UNDERSTAND
Y'ALL HAVE A GUT
LACKING IN STEEL.
INTERESTED?

ON THE
BRIGHT SIDE,
THE DUNGEON
COMES WITH
A HOT TUB.

GRANTED,
IT'S FULL OF
ACID...

The End



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